

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) A test meal composition for use ~~as a test meal~~ in measuring total dietary fat absorption by the digestive tract of a subject, comprising 5 to 60% a predetermined amount of dietary fat, a marker consisting of a predetermined amount of sucrose polyester comprising sucrose behenate, wherein the sucrose behenate is 0.1% to 10% by weight of the total of dietary fat and sucrose polyester, 1 to 25% protein, and 5 to 60% carbohydrate, by weight.
4. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 3, further comprising a colorant, in a quantity sufficient to change the color of a fecal matter produced by the subject from the test meal, such that a sample of the fecal matter collected from the subject is colored according to the colorant used.
5. (currently amended) A method for measuring total dietary fat absorption by the digestive tract of a subject, useful for diagnostic testing for diagnosing malabsorption of dietary fat by the digestive tract of the subject, and impairment of dietary fat digestion in the subject, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a test meal for consumption, comprising ~~[[an]]~~ a predetermined amount of dietary fat and ~~[[an]]~~ a predetermined amount of a marker consisting of sucrose polyester comprising sucrose behenate,
 - b. administering ingestion of the test meal by a subject under diagnosis for malabsorption of dietary fat by the digestive tract of the subject or an impairment of dietary fat digestion in the subject,

- c. collecting a sample portion of fecal matter from the stool of the subject at an interval following ingestion of said test meal,
 - d. analyzing for measuring the amount of total fatty acid in the dietary fat and the amount of behenic acid in the sucrose polyester recovered in the fecal sample, and
 - e. calculating the amount of dietary fat recovered from the test meal based on the analyzed amounts of total fatty acid and behenic acid, to determine the amount of dietary fat that was absorbed by the digestive tract of the subject.
6. (original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the provided test meal further comprises about 1 to 25% protein, and about 5 to 60% carbohydrate, by weight.
7. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the sucrose polyester in the provided test meal comprises sucrose behenate at up to 20%, by weight of the dietary fat.
8. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the collecting step comprises collecting the sample of the fecal matter during the day following ingestion of said test meal, or during each of the two consecutive days following ingestion of the test meal.
9. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the test meal further comprises a colorant, in a quantity sufficient to change the color of the fecal matter produced from the test meal, such that the sample collected from the subject is colored according to the colorant used.
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (previously presented) The composition according to Claim 4 wherein the colorant is selected from the group consisting of bromophenol blue, cresol green, beta-carotene, and carmine red, and mixtures thereof.

13. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the sucrose polyester consists of sucrose behenate.
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the test meal is in liquid form.
17. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the test meal comprises 5 to 60% dietary fat, by weight.
18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 7 wherein the provided test meal comprises 0.1% to 10% sucrose behenate by weight of the dietary fat.
19. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 18 wherein the test meal further comprises a colorant, in a quantity sufficient to change the color of the fecal matter produced from the test meal, such that the sample collected from the subject is colored according to the colorant used.
20. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 9 wherein the colorant is selected from the group consisting of bromophenol blue, cresol green, beta-carotene, and carmine red, and mixtures thereof.
21. (new) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the amount of the collected fecal sample portion is from about 10 milligrams to about 2 grams.
22. (new) The method according to Claim 21 wherein the amount of the collected fecal sample portion is from about 10 milligrams to about 20 milligrams.